



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

March 29, 1999

Mr. Wayne Pierre, Team Leader
Environmental Cleanup Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Dean Nygard, Acting Bureau Chief
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Division of Environmental Quality
Community Programs
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Draft Record of Decision — Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory – (OPE-ER-44-99)

Dear Mr. Pierre and Mr. Nygard:

Enclosed is the Draft Record of Decision for Waste Area Group 3 — Idaho Chemical Processing Plant, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. This Draft Record of Decision is being transmitted for your review and comment. This document contains both the Record of Decision and associated Responsiveness Summary. This document is being submitted to meet the requirements of the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFA/CO).

This Draft Record of Decision was developed following the EPA guidance on Record of Decision. However, there is new EPA guidance being developed concerning the information to be contained in a Record of Decision. This Draft Record of Decision has been developed to include the existing guidance requirements and the new guidance requirements, where possible. Also, text has been included in several sections of this Draft Record of Decision to meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for siting a new process water treatment system (percolation pond).

The Responsiveness Summary contains the comments and responses to the comments received from the public on the Proposed Plan. Comments from both comment periods (October 23 to December 22, 1998 and January 14 to February 12, 1999) have been

included. In addition, the comments made during the formal part of the public meetings have been included in the Draft Responsiveness Summary.

In order to expedite Record of Decision comment resolution and incorporation, review comments should be provided in an electronic format. By using an electronic copy transfer, an increase in the efficiency of comment resolution and subsequent incorporation is expected.

The FFA/CO review time for this Draft Record of Decision, a primary document, is 45 days, but if you have significant comments please let us know within 30 days. By notifying DOE-ID of any significant issues prior to the completion of the review period, these issues can be addressed. This will reduce the impact to the schedule. If you have any questions, please call Talley Jenkins at (208) 526-4978 or myself at (208) 526-4392.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Hain, Manager
Environmental Restoration Program

Enclosure

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